

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A resistive element controllable to irreversibly decrease its value, comprising:

several polysilicon resistors (~~Rp1, Rp2, Rp3, Rp4~~) ~~associated~~ connected in series between two input/output terminals (~~11, 12~~) of the resistive element; and

an assembly of switches (~~MN1, MN3, MN5, MP1, MP2~~), connected to turn the series ~~association~~ connection into a parallel association of said resistors between two programming terminals (~~13, 14~~) intended to receive a supply voltage.

2. (Currently Amended) The resistive element of claim 1, wherein said switch assembly (~~MN1, MN3, MN5, MP1, MP2~~) comprises one more switch than the resistive element comprises resistors (~~Rp1, Rp2, Rp3, Rp4~~), one (~~MN5~~) of the switches connecting one (~~12~~) of said input/output terminals to one (~~14~~) of said programming terminals.

3. (Currently Amended) The resistive element of claim 2, wherein said switches (~~MN1, MN3, MN5, MP1, MP2~~) comprise MOS transistors with a number of N-channel transistors greater by one than the number of P-channel transistors.

4. (Original) The resistive element of claim 1, wherein said switch assembly comprises as many switches as the resistive element comprises resistors, one of said input/output terminals being the same as one of said programming resistors.

5. (Original) The resistive element of claim 4, wherein said switches are formed of MOS transistors distributed half and half between P-channel transistors and N-channel transistors.

6. (Currently Amended) The resistive element of claim 1, wherein each interconnection point (~~15, 16, 17~~) between two resistors (~~Rp1, Rp2; Rp2, Rp3; Rp3, Rp4~~) is connected to a first terminal of a switch (~~MP2, MN3, MP4~~) of the assembly, the second

terminal of which is connected to one of said programming terminals ~~(13, 14)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The resistive element of claim 1, wherein each of the resistors ~~(Rp1, Rp2, Rp3, Rp4)~~ has an identical nominal value.

8. (Currently Amended) The resistive element of claim 1, wherein said programming is performed by imposing in each of the resistors ~~(Rp1, Rp2, Rp3, Rp4)~~ a constraint current greater than a current for which the value of this resistance exhibits a maximum.

9. (Currently Amended) The resistive element of claim 8, wherein said constraint current stands beyond an operating current range of the resistive element when the resistors ~~(Rp1, Rp2, Rp3, Rp4)~~ are in series.